



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 2, 2011

H.R. 2172 **Utilizing America's Federal Lands for Wind Energy Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 13, 2011

H.R. 2172 would exempt certain weather testing and monitoring activities on federal land from compliance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based on information from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 2172 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

Under the bill, environmental impact reviews under NEPA would not be required for weather testing and monitoring activities on federal land that meet certain requirements related to the duration of the activities, the amount of land disturbed, and the restoration of the project site. The bill also would reduce the amount of time the agency administering the affected lands would have to determine whether to grant permits for weather testing and monitoring activities. Based on information provided by BLM and the Forest Service, CBO expects that implementing the legislation could affect the workload of certain offices within those agencies; however, we estimate that the budgetary impact of any such effects would be negligible.

H.R. 2172 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.